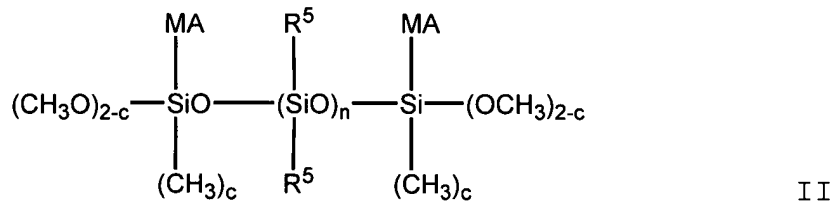


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A curable composition comprising:
 - (a) a crosslinkable component which forms an elastomer when cured;
 - and
 - (b) distributed within said crosslinkable component in a shape-holding amount, a polymeric powder which remains discrete in the cured elastomer and has a melt temperature below the degradation temperature of the cured elastomer;wherein once cured, the curable composition can be reshaped by melting the polymeric powder and holding the cured composition in a shape until the melted polymeric powder resolidifies.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the elastomer is a silicone composition.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the elastomer is selected from the groups consisting of polyacrylates, polyurethanes, styrene-butadiene copolymers, polyesters, polyethers, polystyrene, polyamides, polybutadiene and combinations thereof.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable component is present in amounts of about 10 to about 90 wt%.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein components (a) and (b) are present at a ratio of about 1:10 to about 10:1.
6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable component is a vinyl compound containing two or more ester groups.

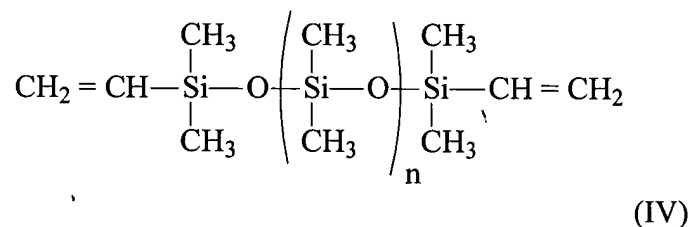
7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable component includes a compound having the formula:



wherein MA is a methacryloxypropyl group, n is from 1 to 1,200 and c is 0 or 1; and R⁵ is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon or hydrocarbonoxy radical from C₁₋₂₀ as further defined herein.

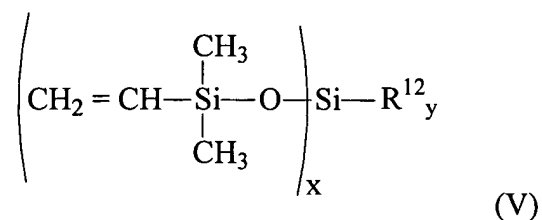
8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable component is selected from the group consisting of an alkylene diol dialkylacrylate, a glycerol trialkylacrylate, a dialkyl succinate and combinations thereof.

9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable material is a combination of vinyl end-capped polydimethylsiloxane having the formula (IV):



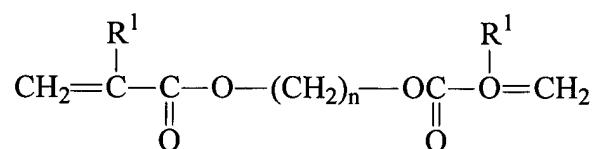
wherein n = 0 to 1,200, and

a multivinyl containing dimethyl siloxane (V) having the formula:



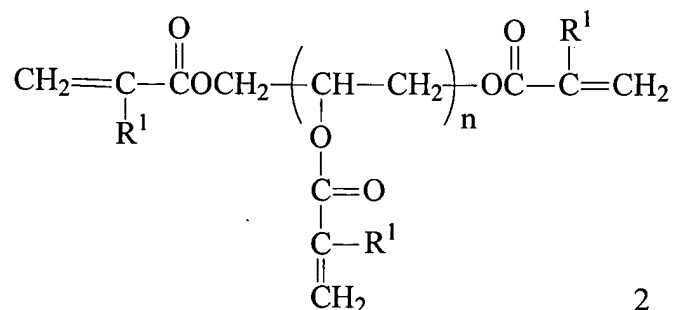
wherein R^{12} is $\text{C}(\text{H})_{4-x}$, $x = 2$ to 4 and $y = 0$ to 1 .

10. The composition of claim 1, wherein said crosslinkable component is selected from one or more compounds corresponding to the following structures:



1

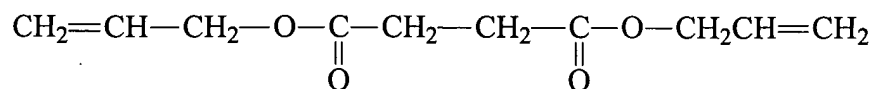
or



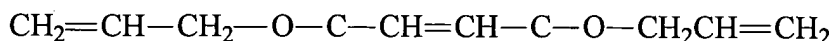
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wherein R^1 is H or CH_3 and $n = 2-6$.

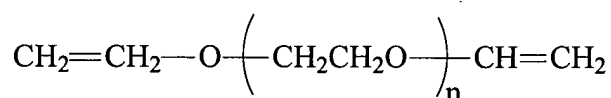
11. The composition of claim 1, wherein said crosslinkable component is selected from one or more of the following compounds:



3



4



5

wherein $n = 1$ to 100.

12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable component comprises a 30/70 to 70/30 mixture of vinyl silicones to vinyl alkylene esters.

13. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable component comprises a 30/70 70/30 mixture of vinyl silicones to vinyl ethers.

14. The curable composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder comprises a polyolefin.

15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, poly(ethylene-co-propylene), syndiotactic polypropylene, polycaprolactone-polybutadiene (72% cis, 28% trans), isotactic poly(1-butene), poly(1-decene) poly(ethylene-co-1-butene), poly(ethylene-co-vinylacetate), poly(butyleneadipic acid), poly(α -methylstyrene co-methylstyrene), polyethylene oxide, trans 1,4-polybutadiene, trans 1,4-polyisoprene, and combinations thereof.

16. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder is present in amounts of equal to or greater than 60%wt.

17. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder has an average particle size of from a submicron size to about 100 microns.

18. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder has an average molecular weight of about 500 to about 5 million.

19. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a crosslinker.

20. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a catalyst.

21. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an inorganic filler.

22. The composition of claim 19, wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of a hydride terminated polydimethylsiloxane, methylhydrosiloxane, and trimethylsilyl terminated methylhydrosiloxane.

23. The composition of claim 20, wherein the catalyst is a complex of 2,4,6,8-tetramethyltetravinylcyclotetrasiloxane and platinum chloride.

24. The composition of claim 20, wherein the catalyst is present at a level of about 0.05 to 0.5 wt %.

25. The composition of claim 19, wherein the crosslinking agents are selected from the group consisting of 2,4,6,8-tetramethyltetravinylcyclotetrasiloxane, trimethoxyvinylsilane, water and combinations thereof.

26. The composition of claim 21, wherein which the filler is selected from the group consisting of fumed silica, crushed quartz, and carbon black.

27. The composition of claim 21, wherein the inorganic filler is present in amounts of about 5 to about 20 wt%.

28. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a polymerization inhibitor, present at a level of about 0.10 to about 0.30 wt %.

29. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a viscosity modifying agent, present at a level of about 1 to about 4 wt %.

30. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder has a melting range of about 60° to about 170°C.

31. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder has a melting range of about 90° to about 140°C.

32. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric powder has a melting range of 100° to about 120°C.

33. A composition comprising the reaction product formed by curing:

(a) a crosslinkable component which forms an elastomer when cured;

and

(b) distributed within said crosslinkable component in a shape-holding amount a polymeric powder which remains discrete in the cured elastomer and has a melt temperature below the degradation temperature of the cured elastomer;

wherein once cured, the curable composition can be reshaped by melting the polymeric powder and holding the composition in the same or different shape until the melted polymeric powder resolidifies.

34. A reformable article of manufacture comprising a cured elastomeric matrix having distributed therein in a shape-holding amount a polymeric powder which melts below the degradation temperature of the elastomeric matrix and which upon heating permits reshaping of the article.

35. A method of preparing a cured, reformable composition comprising:

(a) providing a crosslinkable component which forms an elastomer when cured; and

(b) dispensing within said crosslinkable material in a shape-holding amount a polymeric powder which melts below the degradation temperature of the cured elastomer and which remains discrete therein.

36. An electrical wire or cable which can be reshaped upon the application of heat comprising:

(a) an electrical wire or cable; and

(b) a coating for said wire comprising:

(i) a crosslinkable component which forms an elastomer when cured; and

(ii) distributed within said crosslinkable component in a shape-holding amount a polymeric powder which remains discrete in the cured elastomer and has a melt temperature below the degradation temperature of the cured elastomer;

wherein the curable composition can be reshaped subsequent to cure.

37. A reformable polymeric composition comprising:

(a) a flexible or elastomeric polymer; and

(b) a meltable polymeric powder distributed within said flexible or elastomeric polymer and having a melting range lower than said flexible or elastomeric powder, said

powder and polymer forming an interpenetrating network, wherein said powder is present in amounts sufficient that upon melting and cooling of said powder, the shape or configuration of said composition can be modified.

38. A method of providing shape memory to a deformable substrate comprising:

(a) providing a deformable substrate having applied thereto a coating comprising:

(i) a flexible or elastomeric polymer; and

(ii) a meltable polymeric powder distributed within said flexible or elastomeric polymer and having a melting range lower than said flexible or elastomeric powder, said powder and polymer forming an interpenetrating network, wherein said powder is present in amounts sufficient that upon melting and cooling of said powder, the shape or configuration of said composition can be modified;

(b) heating the coated substrate to the melting range of the polymeric powder;

(c) shaping the deformable substrate to the desired shape; and

(d) cooling the shaped substrate to permit solidification of the polymeric powder and retention of the thus formed shape.